WILLIAM DENTON MOULTON

William Denton Moulton, son of Thomas and Sarah Denton Moulton, was born in Irchester, England, July 17, 1843. His family joined the Church when he was young,



sailing soon for America. A brother, Charles Alma, was born on board the "Thornton" just before sailing time. After six weeks at sea, they crossed the country by train and handcart with the Captain James G. Willey company, arriving in Salt Lake City on November 9, 1856, suffering with cold because of the late date of arrival. Brigham Young had sent help out to meet them. They lived in Provo until 1860, then moved to Heber. William was a member of the Blackhawk army after growing to manhood. When he was 22 he married Mary Lavina Lee, July 24, 1865, and they were sealed for eternity December 15, 1868, in the Endowment House.

In June, 1868, he, with many others, went to Florence, Nebraska, with ox teams and wagons, to meet LDS immigrants. It was a long trip, because they had to wait six weeks for 700 Danish people who were late arriving at Florence. His group saw the last rails laid on the Platte River railroad bridge and the first train of the Union Pacific to cross over it on July 15, 1868.

The year 1869 was a bad one for crops and living conditions were hard, so William worked, hauling ties for the railroad which was coming into Utah then.

The first home for William and his wife was a little log cabin. A few years later he bought a ranch nine miles north of Heber, on which he built a large rock house, and that section was named Moultonville. A branch of the Church was established and he became presiding elder. He secured a contract to supply beef, milk and butter to the boarding houses of the Ontario mine at Park City. He built up a prosperous business and many young people from Heber had employment on the ranch.

Seven years after his marriage to Mary Lavina Lee, he took Mary Ann Davis as

his second wife. Both wives gave birth to five children. One child of each died in infancy. Both families were brought up as one family, eating at the same table and living in the same house.

William Moulton was a good man, influential and respected, but death from typhoid pneumonia cut his life to only 40, on June 14, 1883.

MARY LAVINA LEE MOULTON



Mary Lavina Lee, daughter of Thomas O. and Ellen Tadwell Lee, was born in Worsper, England, on August 26, 1846. While Mary and her brothers, John and Orson, were small, their father was called on a Church mission to Barnsley, England. They, with their mother, lived in the Social Hall at Sheffield, while the mother cleaned the hall and took in washing and ironing for their support.

In 1863, Mary, her father and brother came to America on the ship "Amazon." Her mother and brother John had come to Utah three years previous. They traveled under the leadership of George Q. Cannon by train, box car and handcart across the plains, arriving in Salt Lake City just after Mary's seventeenth birthday. The family were happy to be united again and soon moved to Heber. Sorrow was to strike soon though, for Mary's father was killed in a rockslide in March, 1865, while quarrying sandrock for a home. They prayed for strength and courage.

Mary became the bride of Wm. Denton Moulton on July 24, 1865, and her brother Orson lived with them, and her mother and John returned to Salt Lake for employment. Soon, on January 18, 1868, death was to claim John as a result of being frozen in a winter storm.

A few years later, Mary and William moved on a ranch ninth miles north of Heber, at Moultonville, later named Elkhorn. On December 15, 1868, they were sealed for time and eternity in the Endowment House in Salt Lake. In seven years of marriage no children had blessed this couple. William married Mary Ann Davis, as plural marriage was practiced at that time. Within a year both women gave birth to sons, but on September 23, 1877, Mary's baby died.

On January 14, 1883, William Moulton died when only 40 years of age, leaving Mary with four children, one a baby of three months, and his second wife and her four children.

Mary continued to live on the ranch, working hard. Her eight-year-old son Ranch died December 12, 1888. After the marriage of her three living children she sold the ranch and moved to Heber to be near them. She was active in Church organizations all her life and was a member of the "Forget-Me-Not" camp of the Utah Pioneers of Heber, and was a faithful Red Cross worker, especially during World War I.

Mary had a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel and defended plural marriage. The two Marys loved each other and were life-long friends.

On March 10, 1923, her daughter, Sarah Ellen (called Nellie) died, which was one more trying experience for her. She was then 77 years old. In the summer of 1927 her health was poor and she gave up her home to go to Idaho to reside with her daughter, Bertha Bowman, and family.

She died December 3, 1931, and her body was brought back to Heber for burial.